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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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	- S-E	-C-R-E-T	·		50X1-HUM
COUNTRY	USSR		REPORT		
SUBJECT	1. Economic and Social Co in the USSR	nditions	DATE DISTR.	2 Nove	mber 1956
	2. Attitudes of the Popul	ace .	NO. OF PAGES	17	4
DATE OF INFO.		,	REQUIREMENT NO.	RD	
PLACE ACQUIRED			REFERENCES		50X1-HUM
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50X1-HUM

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NFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

		REPORT	
COUNTRY	Ham	DATE DISTR. 17 SEPT 5	56
SUBJECT	USSR Economic and Social Conditions in the	NO. OF PAGES 16	
PLACE	USSR; Attitudes of the Populace	NO. OF ENCLS.	
ACQUIRED DATE		(LISTED BELOW)	
ACQUIRED B		SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 50X1-HUM	
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	CAMP ADMINISTRATION	50X1-HUM
5.		
	the treatme	ont of the prisoners
	guards.	50X1-HU
	a general meeting held soon after they as a new camp. The German camp administrati the Soviet authorities, who interfered on cluding anyone with a record of participa movement.	on had to be approved by Lly to the extent of ex-
•	in prison. The best library was that of curiously consisted almost exclusively of	
	HANDLING OF PRISONER DISCONTENT	50X1-HUN
•	the G	erman PWs refused to
•	the G work on several occasions to protest the they suspected to be non-delivery of mail being placed in the "isolator" without tr	lack of meat and what . The only penalty was

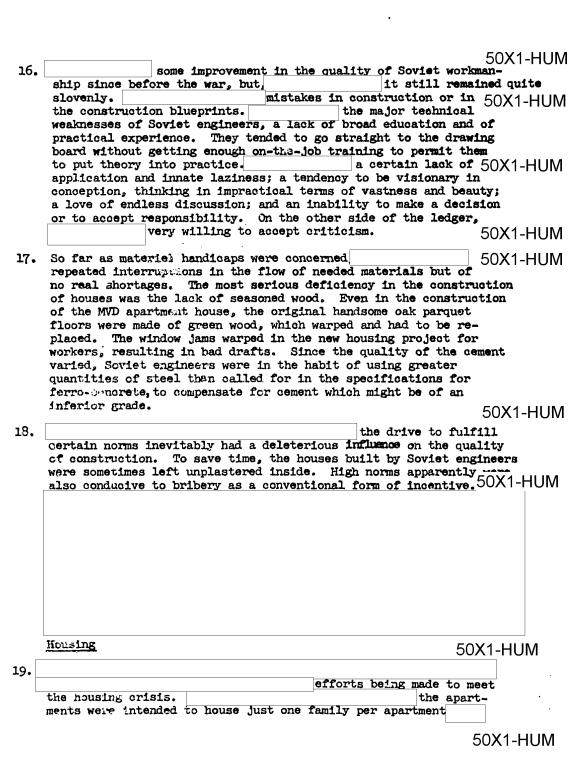
					50X1-
poor condi in its han Moscow, an	E 98-02]; the tions at the calling of the sale conditions a conditions and conditions are sale conditions.	amp. The MVI trike. Agair nd food impro	been made do was very on a commissioned in the	areful on came fro camp. The	the
came to St	alino probabl			commission 953.	50X1-
	15 prisoners			h remained	in the
probably wo Another con WAGES	ere considered mmission came	vulnerable t to Sverdlovsk	o MVD offer [N 56-50,	E 60-38]	50X1-H
					_5011-1

9. The average worker in Stalino had to fulfill a certain norm for which he received a monthly payment of 596 rubles. Deductions from this sum varied according to the job; thus, a person was left with 150 rubles for doing light work and 200 rubles for heavy work. A brigadier received a 20 percent premium.

١.					
	in the Urals the norms for the average worker				
_	were increased, so that a laborer had to work the equivalent				
	of 796 rubles a month to receive in hand 150 rubles for light work and 200 rubles for heavy work. 50X1-HU				
Г	work and 200 rubles for heavy work. 50X1-HU				
Ĺ	The				
	engineers and technicians,				
	earned about 900, 960, or 1,000 rubles per month. The				
	construction superintendent at one of the projects in Stalino				
	earned 1,200 rubles per month, while a young woman who had				
	recently graduated from a tekhnikum w50X1-HIII				
	paid only 500 rubles a month as an engineer employed by the				
	Stalino Stroytrest [Construction Trust]. The only precise				
	norm was that of workers who loader 50X1-HUI				
	and unloaded sand; each worker had to move 20 tons of sand po-				
	day as his norm, and he was paid 1.23 rubles for each ton loaded				
	or unloaded.				
	LIVING CONDITIONS				

- approximately the same food, providing a rough daily caloriDUAI-HUIVI count of about 2,200 calories. The typical breakfast menu, served at 0600 or 0700 hrs, consisted of a half liter of soup made from potatoes or cabbage or, from May to harvest time, from millet or buckwheat. For lunch, the prisoners again received hot or cold soup, prepared the day before and, occasionally, coarse bread or kasha. For supper (1800 or 1900 hrs), potato or buckwheat soup was served again, supplemented periodically by boiled potatoes, gravy, and once a week a small meat ball or fried fish. Prior to the receipt of Red Cross packages in 1951, the German PWs worked harder, since they had to live primarily on what they could buy in the canteen or 50X1-HUM 70 percent of their net wages went into extra food. The remainder was spent at the construction sites for illegal purchases of alcohol (wine and vodka) and, occasionally, of fats from Soviet truck drivers and other free laborers.
- The situation was much better in the Donbas than in the area of Sverdlovsk, since in the Donbas it was possible to buy a wide assortment of items in the canteen, such as sugar, conserved fruit, cake, candy, lemonade, cheese, meat, sausage, and, occasionally, margarine. During the summer, it was also

8	up to 1951, the German prisoners sugreatly from hunger, along with the rest of the Soviet po	ffere50X1-HUmulation,
	ORK CONDITIONS Tense Atmosphere in the Urals	50X1-HU
Till with the control of the control	he atmosphere of work was much more relaxed in the Donbann the Urals where the people were very guarded in their ith the Germans, apparently intent on obeying the prohibit of fraternization. this difference in appropriate that the bulk of the population, including those orked on projects jointly with the Germans, had been existed the Urals. the other large element of the oppulation consisted of young, single people attracted by prortunity of earning an average of 1,000 rubles more a row working in what was a region of great expansion. Refither a deliberate effort to spy on the Germans or the feature of the state of the	contacts ition cach to who 50X1-H led to 50X1-H the month 50X1-H lectin50X1-H ear of50X1-H epprentices,
<u>Ot</u>	bservations About Soviet Work Habits	50X1-HU
Or	n a succession of sites source claimed that he was the en harge of completing a project on the basis of blueprints, oth Soviets and Germans working under his direction, alth	with



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The houses at Obyekt Lako-kraska (laquer and paint factory) consisted of four to eight apartments in two-story buildings, containing two or three rooms plus a kitchen and bathroom in each apartment. The apartments varied in floor space from 35 - 40 m² for two rooms to 40 - 50 m² for three rooms. At Coal Mine No. I, near Stalino, the housing units consisted of 8, 12, 14, and 27 apartments per two-story building, with each apartment consisting of two or three rooms plus a kitchen and bathroom and storage space in the basement. In both projects, there was steam heat which also provided the hot water. During the steam heat was turned on the summer 50X1-HUM just once a week for hot water. In addition, there were hot water units connected to the wood-burning stoves. The MVD apartments in Stalino were as good as 50X1-HUM comparable units in Germany. Not only were they bigger and built of better materials than average Soviet dwellings, but each bathroom contained a gas hot-water heater. Of greater interest were the new-type basements installed in 50X1-HUM both the workers' housing units at Vetka Glubokaya II [sic] in Stalino and in the MVD apartments. In both cases, they appeared to be designed to serve as anti-atomic bomb shelters. 50X1-HUM ACCOUNTLY 50X1-HUM one of daily budgets came to 30,000 rubles of which between 22 and 24 percent went into wages. calculate what amount of 50X1-HUM At the and of the day work had been accomplished, measured in cubic meters. The Stroytreet apparently paid the camp authorities the full wages of the German PWs, reckoned by the prevailing wage rate; the MVD then took its cut for various upkeep expenses, paying the men the 150 to 200 rubles a month each, which was left after deductions. CARPENTRY WORK supervisor of the carpentry shop at Camp 4 near Revda,50X1-HUM negotiated directly with or on behalf of his MVD supervisors. He was required to draw up a signed estimate on any order, which was sent to the customer. Sometimes the estimate was not returned for over a month. In all contracts with 50X1-HUM factories, the customer was expected to provide his own material. MVD superiors In some instances, inflate 50X1-HUM estimate of needed materials so that there would be enough 50X1-HUM left over to fill side orders of the MVD officers at the camp. Radio cabinets were a particularly popular item at Revda among officers and civilians alike. It was impossible to keep up with

20.

21.

50X1-HUM

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the orders. They were sold at cost for 140 rubles to MVD personnel but for 180 rubles (i.e., a 28.5 percent mark-up) to outsiders. 50X1-HUM items as buffets and bureaus. The customers bought their own material and paid between 75 percent and 100 tip of percent more for custom work, usually giving 50X1-HUM 25 to 50 rubles. A large part of the work included making toys, benches, etc., for kindergartens. The largest order 50X1-HUM amounted to 22,000 rubles; this was the out-50X1-HUM fitting of a hospital. Included in the order were 150 night tables, 24 lamp tables, 36 small benches, and some bookshelves. A laboratory 50X1-HUM provided its own diagrams of equipment, which it wished to have built. 50X1-HUM

The items manufactured in the MVD shops cost less than those, for example, produced by the Revda City Kombinat carpentry shops, 50X1-HUM which had their own method of calculation, resulting in much 120 rubles higher prices. divans, which cost 50X1-HUM to make, cost 450 rubles in the stores in Revda. method of calculating part of the total cost was to multiply 50X1-HUM the time required to make the item by the wage rate per hour, which was based, in turn, on the difficulty of working the wood and the finish desired. Work was graded in the following categories (razryady):

> 1.80 rubles per hour 2nd category 2.32 rubles per hour 3rd category 2.79 rubles per hour 4th category 5th category 3.20 rubles per hour

For example, if it took five hours to finish a table of Category 4 work, wages would amount to 13.95 rubles.

50X1-HUM

prices of standard items.

24.50 rubles night table 24.00 rubles lamp table kitchen table 36.00 rubles

round table

120.00 rubles with a rubbed (1.10 meters in diameter)

finish

320.00 rubles with a lacquered bureau

finish

380.00 rubles with a rubbed finish

MERCHANDISE AND PRICES

23.		50X1-HUM			
	stores in Revda between October 1955 an	d.			
	January 1956. "large stride forward	ff .			
	which had been made since the prewar years, in the field of				
	household and hardware appliances (aluminum wares, enameled				
	pots. etc.) as well as in textiles. In particular	50X1-HUM 50X1-HUM			
	the selection of goods at a three-story depart-	207 I-HOIM			
	ment store in Revda called Univermag, which occupied a space	50)///			
	of approximately 400 square meters. in Revda, interalia, that sales were brisk in both jewelry and photographic	50X1-HUM			
	equipment. for sale Soviet-manufactured Leica cameras	50X1-HUM			
	costing around 700 rubles, and a Contax, costing 2,000 rubles,	20V I-UOIN			
	and thought that Soviet products could compete in the world				
	market. Enlargers, photographic paper, film, and photographic				
	chemicals were available, but in limited quantities, and mostly	7			
	of East German origin.	, 50X1-HUM			
	Chinese silk at 106 rubles a meter,				
	a manual on higher mathematics and mechanics, and a Molniya				
	watch for 238 rubles, which was 15-jewel and very	good.			
		50X1-HUM			
24.	The working hours of the stores followed the regulations which				
	were established in 1952 or 1953. During weekdays, they were				
	open from 0900 to 1300 hrs and from 1500 to 1900 hrs; they were				
	closed on Mondays. In accordance with a prewar custom	50X1-HUM			
	larger cities had at least one large store open	50X1-HUM			
	24 hours a day in each section of the city.				

25. The quality of service in the Revda stores left much to be desired. Often the sales girls were inexperienced and shy and clearly lacked the techniques of salesmanship practiced in the West. Where perishable items were concerned, however, the sales girls wore clean white smocks, and the goods were protected against insects. Food stores usually gave the sales clerk a certain percentage of the turnover as an incentive payment in addition to a fixed monthly salary. The fixed salary of the women who ran the kiosks or lareki in factories, parks, and labor camps was 150 rubles per month plus three to five percent of the turnover. The prices at the kiosks, however, were higher than those at ordinary stores.

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50X1-HUM 26. shortages of food products. A large selection of smoked, fresh, marinated, and canned fish, as well as cheese, was to be found in the stores in Revda at the end of 1955, but fats, notably butter and margarine, as well as sugar were either scarce or not available. The lamb, mutton, beef, and pork available in the butcher shops were obviously of an inferior quality. 50X1-HUM similar shortages existed in 1954-1955 in Revda and also in Sverdlovsk and 50X1-HUM Pervouralsk. at Camp 24 in Revda several camp guards to build for them plywood boxes with a capacity of eight to ten kilograms, which, they confided, they planned to use to send sugar to their homes where it was scarce. The situation as regards black bread varied by region. On the return trip to Germany, the Germans tried to sell a surplus of black bread to the local population in the Tatar ASSR, but the people would not accept it even as a gift; on the other hand, the local population of several small White Russian railroad stops bought the bread for five rubles a loaf, although the price in the government store was between 1.50 and 2.0 rubles.

27. The following are some of the prices which pre-50X1-HUM vailed in Revda between October 1955 and January 1956.

<u>Item</u>	Quantity	Government Store	Free <u>Market</u>	Remarks
Black Bread	l kg	1.50 rubles		
White Bread	1 kg	6.50		Best quality.
Potatoes	kg	1.50-2.00	3.00-500	Depending on the season.
One Egg	•	0.80-1.20	2.00-3.00	Depending on the season.
Butter	l kg	28.00		
Margarine	l kg	15.00		
Vegetable Oil	½ ltr.	9.00		
Sausage	1 kg	12.00-16.00		Low grade.
Sausage	1 kg	26.00-38.00		High grade.
Pork	1 kg	15.00-20.00		
Flour	l kg		5.00-7.00	White flour. Sold twice yearly at government stores.
Sugar	l kg	10.00		Lump sugar.

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Item	Quantity	Government Store	Free Market	Remarks
Sugar	1 kg	9.00 rubles		Granulated.
Cheese	1 kg	26.00-39.00		Average quality.
Macaroni	1 kg	4.50		
Rice	1 kg	6.00		`\.
Spaghetti	1 kg	5.00		
Groats	l kg	5.50		
Chocolate	1 bar, 100 gr	15.00-20.00		
Beer	½ ltr	2.50		On tap.
Beer	l bottle	5.00		
Hard Candy	l kg	10.00-20.00		
Cocoa	l kg	40.00-50.00		Top quality.
Wine	1 bottle	8.00-20.00		Varied quality.
Cognac	1 bottle	20.00-35.00		Varied quality.
Cigarettes	20	0.75-7.00		
Tobacco	100 gr	5.00-18.00		
Jam (can or Jar)	l kg	9.00-12.00		
Apple Butter	450 gr	4.50		
Orange Juice		19.00		Three-liter bottle.
Boots, 1 pair		30.00-50.00		Leather.
Shoes, 1 pair		250.00-300.00		Leather.
Suit Material	per meter	300.00-500.00		Pure Wool.
Radio Re- ceiver	6-tube	800.00		"Ural" make.
Man's Shirt		20.00-200.00		
Silk	per meter	80.00-110.00		50X1-HUM
ATTITUDES OF T	HE POPULACE	<u>. </u>		
		it was a soc	ial trait	rather than caution

	ATTITUDES OF THE POPULACE	
28.		it was a social trait rather than caution
		why the more educated people never
		the simplest workers would express their
	feelings openly but only in	very general terms.

50X1-HUM

50X1-HUM

· 50X1-HUM 50X1-HUM Consolidation of the Regime 29. the war had wrought a profound psychological change in the Soviet citizen. the atmosphere before the war was one of profound dissatisfaction and lack of confidence in the durability of the Communist system. 50X1-HUM The victory in World War II, however, seemed to have vindicated the regime, with the people feeling that they had been led correctly and were on an upward path. They saw that the state was strong and that there was no hope of its being overturned. There was a definite accretion of self-confidence in the country. Material Preoccupation the working man in the USSR as an apolitical **30.** 50X1-HUM creature whose only interest was in improving his material conditions. The working man was accordingly unhappy after the war when the state cut his wages, although this did not make him 50X1-HUM in any way disloyal. Free laborers the difficulty they had in making a living. Their jobs paid them no more than 600 rubles per month, whereas it was necessary to earn 800 to 1,000 rubles per month to live. They accordingly worked much harder and longer hours than the German PWs, usually up to 12 or 14 hours, in order to support their families. worked an additional three or four hours every evening as conductors on the city tramways, while two electricians used to work until 0001 hours each day, having contracted on the side to install an electric cable for the city. In contrast to the attitude of the workers the apprentice 50X1-HUM students (praktikanty) who helped on the construction projects in Stalino did not work very hard, lived quite well on their adequate stipends, and apparently were convinced of the inevitability and the beneficial influence of socialism for humanity. Reaction to Post-Stalin Developments 50X1-HUM particular changes since the death of 50X1-HUM 31. no Stalin, although the population as a whole felt when 50X1-HUM that life had become somewhat easier. there was a general Stalin died Work was stopped for five minutes at noon in feeling of sadness. commemoration, and one prorab (job foreman), a man of 50X1-HUM 62 years, leave the room to weep. Opinions about Stalin appeared to be divided. The chief engineer at Mine 1 in Stalino was a strong supporter of his policies; others felt that they were too express pleasure that 50X1-HUM severe, and some Stalin was dead. 50X1-HUM

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50X1-HUM

aim to wart		each man to look to his sup en. This uncertainty was	erior
particularly	noticeable among the	MVD personnel of the camp.	50Y1 L
	no real change	s in policy had taken place	9 3071-6
under Malenk	ov.	Conta	
-111	aletwa . A . At Atamana	Sovie	_
citizens spe	the organism of light	of policy between Malenkov industry, and Bulganin, w	,
favored the	expansion of heavy ind	netwo Mala	nko v †#
		es as tax relief for the	50X1-
		impressive manner of speak	
		both Malenkov and later	50X1-F
		ublic on the subject of at	
weapons [app	arently by underscorin	g Soviet possession of the	m],
		mmenting, after hearing an	
		8 August 19537: "Our Male	
spoke well."			50X1-F
	Khrushchev	had made himself very	
nomilan with		ng of architects in which l	
		iet architecture, [at most	
localized re-	SIMPLIFICATION OF SOA	Tec architecome, fac mose	, a
	action among neonie in	the construction business	I .
	action among people in	the construction business	•
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in internation any foreign in the had land then arrest the had land the had la	the Soviet peo onal developments. The propaganda and resented learned from a foreign ested and convicted if f the Party Line that it had been told	ple were extremely interest ey were highly suspicious of criticism of their country a person who rebroadcast was first reprint the offense was repeated. the Soviet populatinabout the Korean war,	peated nanded,

50X1-HUM

35.	While the Soviet people were not oppressed with the fear of they had been alarmed in 1949 and again in 1952; [the reason these particular years is not clear]. There was also visible concern over the rearmament of Germany.	for
36.		
	the charge that Soviets are detained	
	against their will in West Germany arouses strong feelings i	n
	the Soviet populace.	50X1-HUM
~~		
37•	- Coulet the metumed	
	a Soviet who returned a very depressed man wh	
Г	had been taken in by repatriation promises	
	a good job and house. He had been home only two weeks, none the promises had materialized, and already he had sold everythe owned except the clothes on his back.	hing
38.	the population as a whole echoed the vie	MC20X 1-1101VI
	of the government. While people wished for greater freedom	o50X1-HUM
	speech, they felt that they must also support the general li	ne 50X1-HUM
	of the Party. On an issue like that of free elections,	
	the Soviet citizen believed the Soviet system t	
	democratic, saying, in effect, of the candidates selected by	th e
	Party: "These people have proven themselves and will act in	οι:50Χ1-HUM
	interest, otherwise the Party would not have but them on the	
	election lists. They are the best people."	
	the Party members were the cream of Soviet society.	
	more intelligent, energetic, and painstaking on t	the
	job than the average workman or supervisor. non-Party mass did not consider it unjust that a Party man	50X1-HUM
	generally earned more money, since he had greater responsibi	lity
	[a very doubtful analysis].	50X1-HUM
	SCCIOLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS	
3 9.		the
	subject of religion remained a threat to the	
	regime; great numbers of young people	
	going to church in Leningrad and Tomsk. much	50X1-HUM

__50X1-HUM

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9	ment. many stories of violence after the 1953 amnestying of criminal prisoners. attacks on police officials at that time resulted in the death of the head of the Stalino militia. There were also reports of high Party members and militiamen being robbed. Source saw no political motive behind these attacks, however, attributing them entirely to feclings of revenge on the part of the released criminal elements. The restoration of the death sentence, however, halled to alleviate the situation.			
30		us. Often th	ey liked to make of their i	arry Jews. families, not-50X1-
	ithstanding n the USSR.		universa.	l anti-Semitism